



BRIEFING NOTE

COVID-19 media briefing notes - Karen Redman Friday, June 19, 2020

Thanks Julie,

Now that Waterloo Region has fully entered into Stage 2, we are getting a better idea of what the “next reality” looks like.

Physical distancing, good hand hygiene and wearing a mask has not changed and – in fact it is more important now than ever.

I want to bring to your attention some of the initiatives that the Region is working on to further promote Public Health measures and keep them top-of-mind for everyone.

Staff are actively collaborating with Economic Development, Public Health and GRT, to further spread the word about the importance Public Health measures and especially mask-wearing.

Consulting with businesses

We are connecting with local businesses to understand from their perspective, the wearing of masks in their establishments, possible barriers, and how we can support them.

I'll be participating, along with others in a Virtual Public Consultation/Town Hall hosted by the Region with local businesses and Dr. Wang on Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:30-11:30 a.m.



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Face Mask Friday

In an effort to normalize mask-wearing as part of our everyday new reality, **TODAY** Public Health is launching a #FaceMaskFriday campaign.

We encourage anyone who is out in the community to share a photo wearing their facemask. All you have to do is take a photo of yourself wearing a mask, post your picture on Twitter with the Hashtag #FaceMaskFriday and don't forget to tag Region of Waterloo Public Health so we can see all your lovely faces!

Public Health encourages all of us who can wear a mask, to do so. But let's also remember to be kind and sensitive to those who cannot wear a mask for various reasons.

Let's protect each other by wearing a mask where possible.

GRT Campaign – Let's Protect Each other.

This week, Grand River Transit launched a new campaign, "Let's protect each other" to remind riders of their collective responsibility to do just that - **protect each other**.

The campaign highlights the safety measures GRT is taking, such as more frequent cleanings, the application of an anti-microbial solution on vehicles and barriers between operators and customers.

It also highlights how riders can help, by wearing a face covering while riding, spreading out from others as much as possible, and paying with a fare card, rather than cash. More information can be found at

www.grt.ca/ridesafe

I hope each of us will continue to embrace the role of protecting one another - so that transit remains a safe ride for everyone."



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National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21

This Sunday, June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day; a day for all Canadians to recognize the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

It is also a day for people to reflect on the current struggles that Indigenous people face and what actions they can take to help create positive change within their community. First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs all which should be respected and honoured.

In Waterloo Region we have made a commitment to reconciliation with local indigenous communities. It is important for us to acknowledge and learn about the history of the land and pay respect to the indigenous people that did, and continue to live here.

The Region of Waterloo is situated on the traditional land of the (Ho-DEH-no-SHOW-nee), Anishnaabe (Ah-NISH-in-NAH-bay) and Neutral People.

We acknowledge the enduring presence and traditional knowledge and philosophies of the Indigenous People who whom we share this land.

This year, the date also follows both the Summer Solstice and a solar eclipse, a special time of prayer and spiritual connectedness for many. Last year our community gathered across Waterloo Region to celebrate indigenous culture, including at the Universities, Waterloo Public Square and Kitchener Farmers Market. This year, our celebrations will be different due to COVID-19.

Some of the local virtual events include:

- Indigenous Initiatives at Wilfred Laurier University in partnership with the Centre for Student Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the Centre for International Governance and Innovation are hosting a virtual fireside teaching with Kathy Absolon, an Anishinaabe storyteller and knowledge carrier.



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- Woodland Culture Centre will be hosting a Free Online Screening of the documentary “6 Miles Deep” and discussion with Director Sara Roque.

First anniversary of ION

This Sunday marks ION's first full year in service. It's incredible to think back to the year it's had!

From the thousands who attended launch day, the hundreds of volunteers who helped orchestrate it, and the millions of riders who travelled during the first few months...to the challenging times we've been faced with, providing essential and critical workers with transportation so they can continue to serve our community.

Looking to the future, as the region continues to re-open and more people return to transit, ION will be there for them, and this service will continue to support and shape our region for decades to come.

We would have liked to celebrate this important milestone in person, but of course we can't. You may have already seen a special anniversary video that was uploaded today on our social media channels. It can also be viewed at www.grt.ca – Happy Anniversary ION!

Father's Day

This weekend is also Father's day. A day we honour our fathers and father figures in our life. Whether visiting within your bubbles, or having physically distant visits, may you enjoy your time celebrating. Happy Father's Day.